

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /160 W

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R 071448Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6652

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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PASS AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJECT: WEEKLY FOODGRAIN SITUATION

REF: A) NEW DELHI 10177; B) NEW DELHI 10287

BEGIN SUMMARY - THE PAST WEEK WAS RELATIVELY QUIET IN SO FAR AS FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS WERE CONCERNED EVEN THOUGH FURTHER REDUCTIONS WERE MADE IN WHEAT ALLOCATIONS TO THE STATES. TOTAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT FROM DOMESTIC PRODUCTION INCREASED TO 4.45 MILLION METRIC TONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 5. GOI HAS CONTACTED AUSTRALIA CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF ONE MILLION TONS OF NEW CROP WHEAT FOR  
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DELIVERY ASAP. MONSOON ACTIVITY WEAKENED OVER MOST PARTS

OF INDIA DURING WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5. TOTAL PERFORMANCE OF MONSOON SINCE JUNE 1, HOWEVER, IS GENERALLY GOOD AND PROSPECTS FOR GOOD FALL GRAIN HARVEST CONTINUE FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PAST WEEK WAS RELATIVELY QUIET IN SO FAR AS FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS WERE CONCERNED. MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST FOOD SUPPLY/PRICE PROBLEMS WERE NOTED ONLY IN BIHAR. THIS PERIOD OF RELATIVE QUIETUDE WAS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT FURTHER REDUCTIONS WERE MADE IN WHEAT ALLOCATIONS TO THE STATES FROM THE CENTRAL POOL. IN UTTAR PRADESH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE WHEAT ALLOCATION FOR SEPTEMBER WAS REDUCED FROM 45,000 TONS TO 25,000 TONS.

2. TOTAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT FROM SPRING HARVEST INCREASED FROM 4.37 MILLION TONS AS OF AUGUST 22 TO 4.45 MILLION METRIC TONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 5. THE CONTINUED SMALL INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT RESULTS IN PART FROM EFFORTS ON THE PART OF CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (INCLUDING SEARCH AND SEIZURE RAIDS OF STORAGE CENTERS AND FARMS) AND IN PART FROM THE FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR A GOOD HARVEST OF FALL GRAINS.

3. FOODGRAIN IMPORTS (ACTUAL ARRIVALS) DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST TOTALED 258,800 TONS INCLUDING 124,800 TONS OF WHEAT AND 110,100 TONS OF MILO FROM THE U.S., 6,500 TONS OF WHEAT FROM CANADA AND 17,400 TONS OF MILO FROM ARGENTINA. TOTAL IMPORTS FROM JANUARY 1 - AUGUST 31, WERE 1,804,800 TONS INCLUDING 464,500 TONS OF WHEAT, 504,200 TONS OF MILO FROM THE U.S., 476,400 TONS OF WHEAT FROM CANADA, 189,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 170,700 TONS OF MILO FROM ARGENTINA.

4. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT GOI RECENTLY CONTACTED AUSTRALIA CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF ONE MILLION TONS OF NEW CROP WHEAT FOR DELIVERY ASAP. THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL INDICATED SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF NEW CROP WHEAT ALREADY COMMITTED FOR EXPORT WITH INCREASING HESITANCY TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES UNTIL SIZE OF UPCOMING CROP COULD BE MORE ACCURATELY DETERMINED. INDIANS, HOWEVER, INFORMED THAT THEY SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTER SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS NOW IF THEY DESIRE WHEAT FROM AUSTRALIA IN THE FUTURE. IF SALES AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED SOON, EARLIEST ARRIVAL IN INDIA OF NEW CROP FAIR AVERAGE QUALITY WHEAT WOULD BE FEBRUARY 1974.

5. MONSOON ACTIVITY WEAKENED OVER MOST PARTS OF INDIA DURING THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAINS IN PARTS OF EASTERN AND WESTERN INDIA

WHICH CAUSED HEAVY LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES (ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 400 TO 680 DEATHS) AND ALSO LARGE CROP LOSSES. A QUANTITATIVE APPRAISAL OF TOTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY RECENT FLOODS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. IN SPITE OF RECENT FLOOD DAMAGE THE OVERALL OUTLOOK FOR FALL HARVESTED CROPS CONTINUE TO BE GENERALLY GOOD. THIRTY-ONE OF THE 35 WEATHER ZONES IN INDIA HAVE RECEIVED AVERAGE OR ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL DURING THE CURRENT MONSOON SEASON. SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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